

**REMARKS**

Please introduce the amended claims prior to calculation of fees and examination of the subject application. The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies, to conform various claims to US practice, and to provide antecedent basis for various terms in the claims. New claim 18 is presented, and is supported throughout the specification, particularly at page 6, line 2 of the specification. New claims 19 and 20 are presented, and are supported in the specification at page 7, lines 15-17.

It is respectfully submitted that these amendments do not introduce new matter.

**PRIORITY CLAIM**

This application claims priority from International application PCT/EP2003/010049, having a PCT publication number of WO 2004/024205 A1, which was filed on September 10, 2003, which in turn claims priority from German patent application number DE 102 41 962.0, which was filed on September 10, 2002 and German patent application number DE 103 31 324.9, which was filed on July 10, 2003. Likewise, this national stage patent application claims priority from German patent application number DE 102 41 962.0, which was filed on September 10, 2002 and German patent application number DE 103 31 324.9, which was filed on July 10, 2003.

This Request is being submitted in accordance with the "Express Mail" procedures under Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.10. The above-mentioned documents are being submitted on March 8, 2005 to enter the national stage in the United States under 35 U.S.C. 371. Examination of this application is respectfully requested.

If the fee submitted herewith is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any deficit to our Deposit Account No. 50-1775 and notify us of the same.

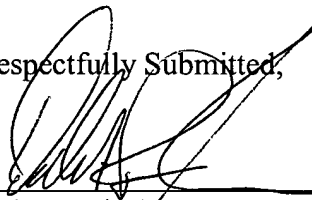
**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request consideration and examination of the application in view of the amendments made in this Preliminary Amendment.

In the event that a phone conference between the Examiner and the Applicant's undersigned attorney would help resolve any issues in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact said attorney at (651) 275-9811.

Dated: March 8, 2005

By:

Respectfully Submitted,  


Dale A. Bjorkman, Reg. No. 33,084  
Customer Number 33072  
Phone: 651-275-9811  
Facsimile: 651-351-2954